

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY KIGALI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6631

C O N F I D E N T I A L KIGALI 1514

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: UNGA, RW, US (NSEKALIJE, ALOYS)

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1. AT 41 YEARS OF AGE, COL. ALOYS NSEKALIJE HAS BEEN RWANDAN SECOND REPUBLIC'S ONLY MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND COOPERATION. PRIOR TO HIS APPOINTMENT AS FOREIGN MINISTER IN 1973, NSEKALIJE (RWANDA'S THIRD-RANKING ARMY OFFICER) WAS LIAISON OFFICER BETWEEN THE POLICE AND NATIONAL GUARD 1970-1973. NSEKALIJE TRAVELLED OCCASIONALLY AS A MEMBER OF FORMER PRESIDENT KAYIBANDA'S OFFICIAL DELEGATIONS, BUT HIS APPARENT QUALIFICATIONS FOR THE FOREIGN AFFAIRS POST WERE HIS ARMY SENIORITY AND THE FACT THAT HE COMES FROM THE SAME COMMUNE AS PRESIDENT HABYARIMANA. AS FOREIGN MINISTER HE IS AN INFLUENTIAL MEMBER OF THE PRESIDENT'S ENTOURAGE AND RETAINS CLOSE TIES TO THE MILITARY. HE IS OCCASIONALLY RUMORED TO ASPIRE TO THE PRESIDENCY HIMSELF, A POST FOR WHICH HE IS DISTINCTLY UNDER-QUALIFIED.

2. ALTHOUGH NOT A PROFOUND THINKER, THE MINISTER BEARS SOME RESPONSIBILITY FOR RWANDA'S POSITIVE FOREIGN POLICY WHICH STRESSES GOOD RELATIONS WITH ENIGHBORS AND GOOD CREDENTIALS WITH BOTH AFRICAN MODERATES AND

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RADICALS. MOST COMFORTABLE AMONG MODERATES, NSEKALIJE NEVERTHELESS BELIEVES THAT RWANDA SHOULD CURRY FAVOR WITH THOSE RADICAL STATES IN A POSITION TO CONTRIBUTE TO ITS ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT. THUS THE MINISTER PLAYED AN IMPORTANT ROLE IN GOR'S INTENSIFICATION OF RELATIONS WITH PRC, DPRK AND LIBYA IN RECENT YEARS.

3. IMPRESSED BY WHAT HE SAW IN CHINA AND NORTH KOREA DURING HIS 1975 AND 1978 VISITS, AND EVIDENTLY INFLUENCED BY THESE COUNTRIES' ASSISTANCE ROLES IN RWANDA, NSEKALIJE FAVORS U.S. WITHDRAWAL FROM THE KOREAN PENINSULA AS PRELUDE TO REUNITING KOREAN PEOPLES. THE RWANDAN DELEGATION CAN THUS BE EXPECTED TO VOTE IN FAVOR OF NORTH KOREAN "REUNIFICATION" INITIATIVES AT UNGA. IN GENERAL, DELEGATION WILL ADHERE CLOSELY TO OAU CONSENSUS, ALTHOUGH NSEKALIJE HAS PROMISED TO TAKE U.S. POSITION CAREFULLY INTO ACCOUNT ON ISSUES OF DIRECT INTEREST TO U.S.

4. DESPITE HIS OPENING TO RADICAL STATES, NSEKALIJE IS BASICALLY A PRO-WESTERN MODERATE. HE STRONGLY FAVORS CLOSE RELATIONS WITH ZAIRE AND A PREPONDERANT WESTERN ROLE IN THAT COUNTRY. HE IS DISTURBED BY SOVIET-CUBAN VENTURES IN AFRICA, AND ON SEVERAL OCCASIONS HE HAS TOLD AMBASSADOR THAT WEST SHOULD RESPOND TO SOVIET-CUBAN MOVES BY PROVIDING ECONOMIC/MILITARY AID TO FRIENDLY NATIONS OPPOSED TO SOVIET-CUBAN INTERVENTION (INCLUDING RWANDA).

5. NSEKALIJE IS WELL-DISPOSED TOWARD THE UNITED STATES AND THOROUGHLY ENJOYED A PARTIAL IV TOUR THERE IN 1976. HE IS ALSO, HOWEVER, A PERSISTENT CRITIC OF THE U.S. AID PROGRAM IN RWANDA, BELIEVING WE SHOULD BE CONFIDENTIAL

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DOING MUCH MORE AND UNDERTAKING MUCH LARGER PROJECTS. HE IS ALSO KEENLY SENSITIVE OF FACT THAT HE HAS NEVER BEEN RECEIVED BY A U.S. SECRETARY OF STATE. NSEKALIJE TACITLY ENDORSES U.S. EFFORTS IN THE MIDDLE EAST, RHODESIA AND NAMIBIA BUT EXPRESSES SKEPTICISM AS TO THEIR LIKELIHOOD OF SUCCESS.

6. JOVIAL AND FOND OF SMALL TALK, NSEKALIJE DEVOTES MUCH OF HIS LEISURE TIME TO THE CHAMPIONSHIP LOCAL SOCCER TEAM HE SPONSORS. HE SPEAKS KINYARWANDA AND FRENCH, IS MARRIED AND HAS EIGHT CHILDREN. CRIGLER

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